Self-sufficiency for foodgrains and oil seeds

3178. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the steps being taken by Government to achieve self-sufficiency target of foodgrains and oilseeds in view of excess rainfall during current monsoon season and cheap loans to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): A number of schemes are being implemented to increase the production and productivity of foodgrains and oilseeds to attain self-sufficiency. Besides, under Macro-Management Mode twenty seven schemes have been sub sumed to provide flexibility to the State Governments in the implementation based on local requirements. There is adequate supply of inputs like fertilizers, seeds, pesticide to meet the situation of excess rainfall. In order to provide cheap credit to farmers the Government have been making continuous efforts to bring down the rate of interest on agricultural loans. All the Public Sector Banks have been advised to reduce their lending rates to not more than 9 per cent per annum on crop loans up to a ceiling of Rs. 50,000/-.

Terminal markets by NDDB

3179. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in its report on horticulture marketing in the country, has suggested for setting up of four terminal markets in the cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Kolkata;

(b) if so, the details of other major suggestions received and action taken/proposed to be taken thereon;

(c) whether it is also a fact that several State Governments have recently approached the NDDB to help them set up horticulture auction markets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTUR (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The NDDB has been requested by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (Horticulture Division) to undertake pilot testing of concept and functioning of Horticulture markets in one of the centres.

(c) and (d) A request for setting up horticulture auction market has been received by the NDDB from Andhra Pradesh. The request will be considered after the Commissioning of Bangalore Market this year.

Selection of farmers under NAIS

†3180. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the farmers who were benefited under agriculture insurance scheme all over the country during the current financial year and the number of farmers proposed to be provided with benefits thereunder in the coming financial years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of bases on which the selection of farmers has been made/will be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Information on the number of farmers benefited in a particular financial year is available only on completion of that financial year.

Fixation of targets for coverage of farmers is not possible because (i) the scheme provides coverage against natural calamities which are unforeseen (ii) the scheme is optional.

(b) The scheme is optional for the States/UTs. The State Government/UT Administration, which opts for the scheme, is required to notify the areas and crops to be covered under the scheme. The loanee farmers availing seasonal agricultural operation loans for the notified crops in the notified area from rural financial institutions are compulsorily covered. Non-loanee farmers may or may not opt for the scheme.

Increasing sugarcane production

†3181. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA :
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.